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Case WM 130

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: Thomas Halbweiss et al

Title: HARDTOP VEHICLE ROOF WITH THREE RIGID ROOF PARTS

Hon. Commissioner for Patents P.O. 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 July 9, 2003

SIR:

## **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT - SECTION 1.97(b)**

Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. Section 1.56, and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.97 and 1.98, applicants' representative hereby submits US Patent & Trademark Office Form PTO-1449. Copies of the references cited therein are submitted for consideration in the examination of the above-referenced patent application. It is respectfully requested that they be made of record, along with whatever references the Examiner may find in the course of a search, should the Examiner consider them material to the subject application.

EP 0 835 779 A1, which is considered to represent the closest state of the art, has been discussed in detail in the introductory part of the application. The reference has also been cited in the international search report.

The other references all have also been cited in the international search report, and all, including EP 0 835 779 A1, have been marked "A" as relating only to background information.

The references do not disclose that in a hardtop vehicle roof comprising a front, an intermediate and a rear roof part supported on a vehicle body so as to be movable between a closed position, in which the roof parts cover an interior vehicle space, and an open position, in which the roof parts are deposited in a storage compartment behind the interior vehicle space, wherein the rear roof part is pivotally supported on the vehicle body, the front roof part is movable under the intermediate roof part in parallel relationship therewith and the intermediate roof part is supported so as to be movable together with the front roof part into the storage compartment onto the rear roof part already pivoted into the storage compartment so as to form in the storage compartment a roof part packet with the rear roof part disposed at the bottom with its outer surface facing downwardly and the intermediate roof part disposed on top of the packet and the front roof parts is disposed between the rear and intermediate roof parts with the top surfaces of both the front and intermediate roof parts facing upwardly.

This Statement is hereby submitted under Section 1.97(b) since it is being submitted concurrently with the filing of the above-referenced application.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Bach

Klaus J. Bach, Reg. No.: 26832

FORM PTO-1449  U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE			ATTY. DOCKET NO. WM 130		SERIAL	SERIAL NO.		
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				Thomas Halbweiss et al.				
(Use several sheets if necessary				FILING DATE	GROUP			
	<del></del>	U	I.S. PATE	NT DOCUMENTS				
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	199 13 033	10/05/00		DE				X
	198 47 983 05/25/00		DE				X	
	0 835 779	05/15/98		DE				Х
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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.